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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
18 April-3 May 1996

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Cross-sectoral issues, with particular reference to the critical elements of sustainability (Agenda 21, chapters 2-5).

4. Financial resources and mechanisms (Agenda 21, chapter 33).

5. Review of cross-sectoral clusters:

   (a) Education, science and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 34, 36 and 37;

   (b) Decision-making structures, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 8 and 38-40;

   (c) Role of major groups, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 23-32.

6. Review of sectoral clusters:

   (a) Protection of the atmosphere (Agenda 21, chapter 9) and protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas (Agenda 21, chapter 17);

   (b) Progress report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;

   (c) Progress report on the implementation of the decisions made by the Commission at its second and third sessions.

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7. Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8. Other matters.

9. High-level meeting.

10. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

1. Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and such other officers as may be required. At past sessions, the Commission has elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom also served as Rapporteur.

2. The membership of the Commission in 1996 is given in annex II below.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

4. In decision 1995/235, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its third session and endorsed the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission.

Item 3. Cross-sectoral issues, with particular reference to the critical elements of sustainability (Agenda 21, chapters 2-5)

5. At its first session, in 1993, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare an annual overview report on progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21, which should focus on the cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21 and the critical elements of sustainability and should contain an analysis of progress made, the main trends, and the main problems countries faced in the implementation of Agenda 21 (E/CN.17/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, para. 28 (a)).

6. In accordance with the Commission's multi-year thematic programme of work, in 1996 the focus of the cluster entitled "Critical elements of sustainability" will be chapters 2-5 of Agenda 21 (E/CN.17/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, annex, sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (chapter 4 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1)

Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance and Changing Consumption and Production Patterns (E/CN.17/1996/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on trade, environment and sustainable development (chapter 2 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/8 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on combating poverty (chapter 3 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic dynamics and sustainability (chapter 5 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/10 and Add.1)

Item 4. Financial resources and mechanisms (Agenda 21, chapter 33)

7. At its third session, the Commission decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group on finance in order to prepare for its fourth session. The Working Group was to deal with financial resources and mechanisms as well as changing production and consumption patterns, and was requested to address related aspects of transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building. The Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group met from 4 to 8 March 1996. The report of the Working Group will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms for sustainable development: overview of current issues and developments (chapter 33 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/4 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (chapter 4 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1)

Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance and Changing Consumption and Production Patterns (E/CN.17/1996/7)

Item 5. Review of cross-sectoral clusters

(a) Education, science and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 34, 36 and 37

(b) Decision-making structures, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 8 and 38-40

(c) Role of major groups, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 23-32

8. In accordance with the Commission's multi-year thematic programme of work, in 1996 the focus of the cluster entitled "Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building" will be chapters 34, 36 and 37 of Agenda 21; the focus of the cluster entitled "Decision-making structures" will be chapters 8 and 38-40 of Agenda 21; and the focus of the cluster entitled "Roles of major groups" will be chapters 23-32 (E/CN.17/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, annex, sect. II).

9. At its third session, the Commission, taking into account the need for effective implementation of its functions related to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, decided that the two ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working groups it intended to establish to prepare for its fourth session would both address related aspects of transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (chapter 8 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/11 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of major groups in implementation of Agenda 21 (chapters 23-32 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/12 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (chapter 34 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/13 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting education, public awareness and training (chapter 36 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/14 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on capacity-building for sustainable development (chapter 37 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/15 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (chapter 38 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/16)

Report of the Secretary-General on international legal instruments and mechanisms (chapter 39 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/17 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making (chapter 40 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/18 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on national information (E/CN.17/1996/19)

Item 6. Review of sectoral clusters

(a) Protection of the atmosphere (Agenda 21, chapter 9) and protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas (Agenda 21, chapter 17)

(b) Progress report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

(c) Progress report on the implementation of the decisions made by the Commission at its second and third sessions

10. In accordance with it multi-year thematic programme of work, the Commission will consider in 1996 two sectoral clusters - protection of the atmosphere (chapter 9 of Agenda 21) and protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources (chapter 17 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, annex, sect. II).

11. At its third session, the Commission decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group to deal with the sectoral chapters of Agenda 21 under review in 1996, namely chapters 9 and 17. The working group was also requested to address related aspects of transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building. The Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues met from 26 February to 1 March 1996. The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group.

12. Also at its third session, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, composed of representatives of Governments, in order to pursue consensus and formulation of coordinated proposals for action on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, particularly by Governments, assessing action already undertaken to combat deforestation and forest degradation and promoting management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including environmental and socio-economic impacts. The Panel held its first (organizational) session from 11 to 15 September 1995 and its second session from 11 to 22 March 1996. The reports of the Panel on its first and second sessions will be made available to the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues (E/CN.17/1994/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on protection of the atmosphere (chapter 9 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/22 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources (chapter 17 of Agenda 21) (E/CN.17/1996/3 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of decisions on sectoral issues taken by the Commission at its third session (E/CN.17/1996/26)

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the reports of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (E/CN.17/1996/24)

Item 7. Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

13. In resolution 49/122, the General Assembly requested the Commission to carry out, in 1996, an initial review of the progress achieved and steps taken to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the sustainable development of small island developing States (E/CN.17/1996/20 and Add.1-7)

Report of the Secretary-General on donor activities to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1996/21)

Item 8. Other matters

Item 9. High-level meeting

14. In resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission adopt at its first session a multi-year thematic programme of work, including a high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to have an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and commitments contained therein.

15. At its first session, the Commission decided that, as a rule, its high-level meetings should last for a period of up to three days and that they should be integral parts of the sessions of the Commission and of its decision-making process. The organization of work of the high-level meetings should, inter alia, provide for an open exchange of views among the participants and for the holding of informal meetings as the need arose to resolve outstanding issues relating to its work that required high-level consideration. The result of the meeting could be a concise document, should the participants deem that appropriate.

16. Also at its first session, the Commission recommended that the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, containing its expert advice on issues relating to the implementation of Agenda 21, be submitted to the Commission through the Secretary-General.

17. In resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene a special session, not later than 1997, for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, encouraged participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the Assembly.

Documentation

Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its fourth session (E/CN.17/1996/2)

Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (E/CN.17/1996/31)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparing for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.17/1996/25)

Item 10. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission

18. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's forthcoming session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

Item 11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourth session

19. In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The proposed organization of work for the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of the decisions taken by the Commission at its organizational session and on informal consultations conducted by the Chairman with the Bureau.

Week of 18 and 19 April		
Thursday, 18 April		Opening of the session
a.m.	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 6 (b)	Progress report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
	Items 3* and 5	General discussion on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, focusing on the cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21 and the critical elements of sustainability
p.m.	Items 3* and 5	(Continued)
Friday, 19 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Items 3* and 5	(Continued)
Week of 22-26 April		
Monday, 22 April		
a.m.	Item 4	Financial resources and mechanisms Changing consumption and production patterns

* The report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1) will be discussed under item 4.

p.m.	Item 4	Financial resources and mechanisms Changing consumption and production patterns Panel discussion
Tuesday, 23 April		
a.m.	Item 6	Review of sectoral clusters Panel discussion
p.m.	Item 6	Review of sectoral clusters
Wednesday, 24 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 7	Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
Thursday, 25 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Exchange of country experiences Work of the Working Groups
Friday, 26 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Exchange of country experiences Work of the Working Groups
Week of 29 April-3 May		
Monday, 29 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the Working Groups
Tuesday, 30 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the Working Groups
p.m.		Day of the Workplace
Wednesday, 1 May		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	High-level meeting
p.m.		Panel on Youth and Agenda 21

Thursday, 2 May		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	High-level meeting
p.m.		Panel on the 1997 special session of the General Assembly
Friday, 3 May		
a.m.	Item 9	High-level meeting
p.m.	Item 8	Other matters
	Item 10	Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission
	Item 11	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourth session

Annex II

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN 1996

Membership in 1996	Term expires on 31 December
Antigua and Barbuda	1998
Australia	1997
Bahamas	1997
Bangladesh	1997
Barbados	1996
Belarus	1996
Belgium	1998
Benin	1998
Bolivia	1998
Brazil	1997
Bulgaria	1996
Burundi	1997
Canada	1996
Central African Republic	1998
China	1998
Colombia	1998
Ethiopia	1997
Finland	1997
France	1997
Gabon	1998
Germany	1998
Ghana	1997
Guinea	1996
Guyana	1998
Hungary	1997
India	1996
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1997
Italy	1996
Japan	1996
Malaysia	1996
Mexico	1996
Morocco	1996
Mozambique	1998
Netherlands	1998
Pakistan	1998
Papua New Guinea	1997
Peru	1997

Membership in 1996	Term expires on 31 December
Philippines	1997
Poland	1998
Russian Federation	1998
Saudi Arabia	1998
Senegal	1997
Spain	1997
Sweden	1998
Switzerland	1998
Thailand	1998
Uganda	1996
Ukraine	1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1996
United Republic of Tanzania	1996
United States of America	1996
Venezuela	1996
Zimbabwe	1998